THE AMENDMENTS

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing Y-branched carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining non-catalyst loaded carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers;

(b) loading a catalyst on a the carbon ~~nanotube carrier~~ nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers;

~~(b)~~ (c) pre-treating the ~~catalyst-loaded~~ carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers prepared from step ~~(a)~~ (b) to have the catalyst bonded to the surface of the carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers; and

~~(c)~~ (d) performing a synthetic reaction of new carbon nanotubes or new carbon nanofibers using the pretreated carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers of step ~~(b)~~ (c), at the position where the catalyst is bonded.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the carbon ~~nanotube carrier is~~ nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers of step (a) are single-wall or multi-wall carbon nanotubes, or carbon nanofibers with or without Y-branched structure.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of metal, metal oxide, metal nitride, metal boride, metal fluoride, metal bromide, metal sulfide and a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is a metal complex or a metal alloy comprising at least one metal.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the step of loading a catalyst is carried out by impregnation, precipitation, sol-gel method, chemical vapor deposition, sputtering, evaporation, dispersing method or spraying method.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the bonding between the catalyst and the surface of the carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers is accomplished by a chemical pre-treatment selected from the group consisting of oxidation, reduction, hydrogenation, sulfidization and acid treatment, or a physical pre-treatment selected from the group consisting of compression, drying, absorption and high temperature treatment.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the bonding between the catalyst and the surface of the carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers is caused by decomposition, damage or destruction of the surface of the carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic reaction is performed by using a suspension in which the pre-treated catalyst-loaded carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers are dispersed in a solvent.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein the suspension comprises a surfactant.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, binary ionic surfactants, carbohydrates, silicones and fluorocarbons.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic reaction is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of thermal heating, chemical vapor deposition, plasma method, laser ablation, and radio frequency heating.

13-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the ~~bonding between~~

~~the catalyst and the surface of the carbon nanotubes is accomplished by a chemical pre-treatment~~ pre-treating is selected from the group consisting of oxidation, reduction, hydrogenation, sulfidization and acid treatment, ~~or~~ and a physical pre-treatment selected from the group consisting of compression, drying, absorption and high temperature treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the bonding between the catalyst and the surface of the carbon nanotubes or the carbon nanofibers is caused by decomposition, damage or destruction of the surface of the carbon nanotubes.

19. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the synthetic reaction is performed by using a suspension in which the pre-treated catalyst-loaded carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers are dispersed in a solvent.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprises a step ~~(d)~~ (e) which uses the new carbon nanotubes or the new carbon nanofibers obtained from step ~~(c)~~ (d) as a carrier and repeats step (a), (b), (c) and (d) ~~at least twice~~, whereby the obtained Y-branched carbon nanotubes or carbon nanofibers are tree-shaped multiple Y-branched ~~carbon nanotubes~~.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The process according to Claim 9, wherein the suspension is floated as drops of fine particles in gas by direct spraying, siphon spraying, or atomization.

25. (New) The process according to Claim 19, wherein the suspension is floated as drops of fine particles in gas by direct spraying, siphon spraying, or atomization.